



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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January 18, 2006

**FORMER ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR O.S.H.A. IN EL PASO  
PLEADS GUILTY TO ROLE IN BRIBERY SCHEME**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that Mario Martin Solano, Jr., former Area Assistant Director for the Occupational Safety and Hazard Administration (OSHA) in El Paso pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to accept bribes. As a result, Solano faces up to five years in federal prison. Sentencing is scheduled for 9:00am on March 29, 2006.

Appearing before United States District Judge Frank Montalvo this morning, Solano admitted that in 2002, as part of his job, he directed employers seeking to reduce their OSHA fines to a company being run by co-defendant Jose Campos for employee job related training. In return for these training referrals, Solano collected approximately \$30,000 from Campos. Elias Casillas, an OSHA employee under Solano and Campos' former step-son, found and referred offending companies to Solano and also received money from Campos for such referrals. On January 6, 2006, Campos and Casillas pleaded guilty to conspiracy to pay a gratuity. As a result, Campos and Casillas each face up to two years in federal prison when they are scheduled to be sentenced at 9:00am on April 14, 2006.

"It is always shocking to find public servants who are willing to take bribes. These crooks betray the people they are supposed to serve. Solano's conviction reminds us that no public official is above the law," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Defense Criminal Investigative Service, U.S. Department of Labor - Office of Inspector General and U.S. Army - Criminal Investigation Division at Ft. Bliss, Texas. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys William Lewis and J. Brandy Gardes.

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